

***Listing of the Claims***

1 -8.       Cancelled.

9.           Withdrawn. A method for regulating cold and dehydration regulatory genes in a plant comprising the steps of:  
introducing at least one copy of a regulatory gene encoding a protein into a plant;  
expressing the binding protein encoded by the regulatory gene;  
and  
using the expressed binding protein to stimulate expression of at least one environmental stress tolerance gene through binding to a DNA regulatory sequence.

10.         Cancelled.

11.         Withdrawn. A method for regulating cold and dehydration regulatory genes in a plant comprising the steps of:  
introducing DNA encoding a binding protein capable of binding to a DNA regulatory sequence into a plant;  
introducing a promoter into a plant which regulates expression of the binding protein;  
introducing a DNA regulatory sequence into a plant to which a binding protein can bind; and  
introducing one or more environmental stress tolerance genes into a plant whose expression is regulated by a DNA regulatory sequence.

12.         (Currently amended) A method for regulating cold and dehydration regulatory genes in a plant comprising the steps of: transforming a plant with a gene encoding a transcription regulating protein ~~comprising an amino acid encoded by a~~ sequence that is at least ~~95~~ 85% homologous to SEQ. ID. No. 1 that ~~, wherein~~ the protein is capable of selectively binding to a DNA regulatory sequence comprising CAACA in the plant which ~~regulates expression of so that a cold or dehydration regulatory gene is expressed one or more environmental stress tolerance genes in the plant;~~ and expressing the transcription regulating protein in the plant.

13 - 16. Cancelled.

17. Withdrawn. Plant material transformed with DNA encoding a cold-regulated transcription factor.

18. Cancelled.

19. Cancelled.

20. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein said transformation is by effected by Agrobacterium tumerfaciens.

21. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein said gene is operably linked to a promoter.

22. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein said promoter is constitutive.

23. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein said promoter is inducible.

24. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein said promoter is tissue specific.

25. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein said gene encodes SEQ ID NO:1.